

NATURALLY-OCCURRING ASBESTOS CONSTRUCTION & GRADING REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for Naturally-Occurring Asbestos

Naturally-occurring asbestos is often located with and within deposits of ultramafic rock and serpentine that can be found in many areas of California. In fact serpentine is the state rock of California. In Placer County these areas where ultramafic or serpentine rock are found are predominately on the highway 49 corridor in the Auburn area; the Foresthill area; near Alta; near Weimar on I-80 corridor, and in the Tahoe National Forest.

On November 19, 2002, the California Air Resources Board's *Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations* became effective. This regulation establishes several new requirements construction and grading activities in areas where ultramafic rock or serpentine is located, which is an indicator for the possible presence of naturally-occurring asbestos.

The regulation requires notification of the District for construction (including road construction and maintenance) or grading operation, quarries, and surface mines when the activity occurs in areas where ultramafic rock, serpentine, or naturally-occurring asbestos may be found, as identified on 1:250,000 scale State Department of Conservation Geologic Maps of the Sacramento and Chico Quadrangles. When construction, grading, or excavation activities will be performed in these mapped areas, or when ultramafic rock, serpentine, or naturally-occurring asbestos is discovered during construction, best available dust mitigation measures are required. The regulation specifies minimum dust control measures for construction/grading activities less than one acre in size where ultramafic or serpentine rock may be found.

For construction activities over one acre in size where ultramafic or serpentine rock may be found, an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan must be submitted to the District for approval. The requirements for the mandated dust control measures and the Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan in ultramafic or serpentine rock areas can only be avoided if a geologic evaluation by a Registered Geologist is conducted and finds that no ultramafic or serpentine rock is likely to be found in the construction/grading area. In this case an exemption must be sought from the District. Separate requirements are stated in the regulation for road construction and maintenance activities - primarily dust control by watering.

The District is in the process of developing a guidance document to aid those involved in construction or grading activities in ultramafic or serpentine rock areas to comply with the regulation. If you have questions about whether an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan is required for a specific location; you discover ultramafic, serpentine, or naturally-occurring asbestos; or if you have questions concerning the regulation, please contact Todd Nishikawa at (530) 745-2322, or by e-mail at tnishika@placer.ca.gov.

Copies of the Final Regulation Order, *Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations*, are available from the District, (530) 745-2330, or they may be downloaded by accessing the California Air Resources Board's Internet web page at, <http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/atcm/asb2atcm.htm>, or by a link to this website from the District's web page at www.placer.ca.gov/apcd.